THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has taken initiatives in areas of research and development through ICAR lnstitutes/Directorate/(s)/National Research Centres (NRCs) and All India Coordinate Research Projects located in different agro climatic zones/states. The programme is focused on development of varieties/hybrids and associated technologies suited for different agro-climatic regions across the country.

(b) The lnstitute(s)/Directorate(s)/NRC do not function on the basis of territorial jurisdiction. These are established on the basis of importance of crops and requirements. The Central Institutes/National Institutes of ICAR are undertaking the basic and strategic research and catering to the need of entire country and of different states. The AICRP centres are located in different states based on the crops grown and requirements.

(c) Yes, Sir. Budgetary allocations are made as per the requirement of the lnstitutes/Directorate(s)NRC(s) and AlCRPs. The budget estimates for the year 2006-07 was about Rs. 376 crores under Plan.

(d) Not Applicable.

Milk production

1981. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated milk production in the country during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) whether it is a fact that the production of milk is stagnating or growing at a very slow pace;

(c) the under-lying reasons for the poor performance in the dairy sector;

(d) the steps proposed to improve dairy production;

(e) whether there is any scope of export of milk and dairy products to SAARC countries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The estimated milk production in the country during 2004-05 and 2005-06 are 92.5 million tonnes and 97.1 million tonnes respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In addition to the steps taken by State Governments, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by way of the following schemes to improve the quality and the quantity of milk in the country:

(i) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding.

(ii) Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme.

(iii) Fodder Development Scheme.

(iv) Intensive Dairy Development Programme.

(v) Assistance to Cooperatives.

(vi) Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production.

(e) and (f) The Government of India has prohibited the export of milk powder, skim milk powder, whole milk powder and milk food for babies from 9-2-2007 to 30.9-2007.

Suicides

1982. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers continue to resort to suicides under drought and debt burden; if so, the number of suicides reported from different States during 2006-07, so far;

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to review and revise the Agriculture Policy to make it more farmer friendly; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in the matter, so far?